

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13514 301744Z

47

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SSO-00 SY-05 H-02

SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIE-00 INRE-00

OPR-02 SAM-01 CCO-00 USSS-00 AID-05 /071 W

----- 067778

O 301525Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6944

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 13514

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, EAIR, LE

SUBJECT: REPORTED KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN CITIZEN HERMAN CLYDE  
HUDDLESTON

1. ON EVENING OF OCTOBER 29 AMERICAN CITIZEN HERMAN CLYDE HUDDLESTON, A PILOT FOR TRANS-MEDITERRANEAN AIRLINES (TMA) WAS KIDNAPPED BY AN ARMED GROUP FROM HIS APARTMENT LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF NEW EMBASSY BUILDING (RAMLET-EL-BAIDA).

2. KIDNAPPERS ENTERED APARTMENT AT 9:30 P.M. AND DEPARTED WITH HUDDLESTON ABOUT 11:30 P.M., ACCORDING TO MRS. HUDDLESTON FROM WHOM THIS INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED. HUDDLESTON HAD BEEN EXPECTING COMPANY AND OPENED THE DOOR.

3. MRS. HUDDLESTON STATED THAT HER HUSBAND WAS AN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR BUT THAT HE WAS NOT ENGAGED IN TRANSMITTING MESSAGES; THAT ANY RADIO EQUIPMENT IN THE APARTMENT WAS FOR RECEIVING. IT WAS APPARENT THAT KIDNAPPERS DID NOT PICK ON HUDDLESTON'S APARTMENT BY CHANCE BUT ENTERED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF CONFIS-  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 13514 301744Z

CATING RADIO EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING TRANSMITTER, WHICH

THEY CLAIMED HUDDLESTON HAD. TWO HOURS WERE SPENT SEARCHING APARTMENT FOR RADIO EQUIPMENT.

4. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED SECURITY AUTHORITIES AND TMA HAS DONE LIKEWISE.

5. WE HAVE MEANWHILE CONTACTED TMA PRESIDENT MUNIR ABU-HAIDER. ABU-HAIDER STATES THAT HUDDLESTON HAS WORKED FOR TMA ABOUT FOUR YEARS. HE ALSO ADDED THAT HUDDLESTON VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN RADIO ACTIVITY AND THAT HE FREQUENTLY BRAGGED ABOUT HAVING SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL EQUIPMENT IN THE COUNTRY. HE ALSO HAD ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST CONSPICUOUS AERIALS ON THE TOP OF HIS APARTMENT BUILDING. ABU-HAIDER ALSO INFORMED US THAT HE WAS WORKING NOT ONLY THROUGH THE POLICE BUT THROUGH OTHER PRIVATE CHANNELS. HE LATER CALLED TO SAY THAT HE HAD ESTABLISHED CONTACT AND THAT HUDDLESTON WAS BEING HELD BY MAIN LINE PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS WHO COMPLAINED TO ABU-HAIDER THAT HUDDLESTON INDEED WAS NOT ONLY TRANSMITTING (PALESTINIAN CAMPS ARE LOCATED QUITE CLOSE TO THE AREA IN QUESTION), BUT WAS ALSO COMMUNICATING WITH A MR. RIZK OF THE PHALANGE MOVEMENT.

6. ABU-HAIDER IS DOING HIS MAXIMUM TO OBTAIN HUDDLESTON'S RELEASE BUT IS NOT CERTAIN IF HE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. IF SUCCESSFUL, HE WILL FLY HUDDLESTON AND FAMILY (WIFE AND TEEN-AGE BOY) OUT OF COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY.

7. EMBASSY AND ABU-HAIDER REMAINING IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER ON THIS MATTER AND WILL REPORT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. AS A MATTER OF PRECAUTION (AND PROBABLY FROM PRESSURE ON THE PART OF THOSE CONCERNED) ABU-HAIDER IS TRANSFERRING HIS FOREIGN NATIONAL PILOTS TO OTHER LOCATIONS.  
GODLEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, RADIO EQUIPMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT13514  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750377-0124  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975107/aaaaafuj.tel  
**Line Count:** 95  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SCCT  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN CITIZEN HERMAN CLYDE HUDDLESTON  
**TAGS:** CASC, EAIR, LE, (HUDDLESTON, HERMAN CLYDE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006